

Maine Township Board Meeting August 22, 2017

Maine Township Board meeting has been videotaped.

Board Members Present: Trustees Jones, Carrabotta, McKenzie and Sweeney

Other Elected Officials Present: Supervisor Morask, Clerk Gialamas, Assessor Moylan Krey and Highway Commissioner Kazmierczak

Other in attendance: Dayna Berman, Dan Dowd, Doriene Prorak, Denise Jajko, Elizabeth Coy, Debbie Babich, Richard Lyon, Marsha Warnick, Michael Samaan, Mary Swanson, Alex Barton, Dagmar Rutzen, David Gnutek, Audrey Nankervis, Sharon McLaughlin, Carol Langan, Robert Provenzano, Jan Provenzano, Blair Garber, Denise Martin, Zach Budruweit, Nicholas Kanehl, Jacob Pridgeon, Brittany Wilson, Allan Brown, Vince Latkowski, Josh Gable, Kim Bract, Millie O'Brien, Rebecca Behrens, Nate Ruben, Mariusz Czech, Brian Aldridge, Joe Plaziak, Anthony Capra, Naomi Bowman, Carolyn Drblik, Anne Camarano, Marvin Boraschlegl, Jeremy Aynessazian, Colleen Aynessazian, R. McKenzie and Wiesia Tytko

Supervisor Morask called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m., Clerk Gialamas led the Pledge of Allegiance and called the roll.

Agenda Item: Approval of Minutes of July 25, 2017 Board Meeting

Trustee Jones	Motion to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the July 25, 2017 Board Meeting as distributed to the Board.
Supervisor Morask	Second.

Trustee Sweeney and Trustee McKenzie stated that due to time constraints and the extensive length of agenda and July minutes they were unable to review the minutes from July 27, 2017. They asked to postpone the approval of the distributed minutes to the next Board meeting.

Supervisor Morask stated that the special reports were delivered to the Elected Officials 12 days before the Board meeting and the Board packets with the regular Board reports and minutes were delivered on the Thursday before the scheduled Board meeting. She pointed out that it should give enough time for the minutes to be reviewed.

Clerk Gialamas added that Trustee Sweeney received an audio copy of the July 27th Board meeting as she requested.

Supervisor Morask	Motion to table the previous motion and to postpone approval of the July 27, 2017 Board meeting minutes at the September 26, 2017 Board meeting.
Trustee McKenzie	Second.

Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Morask	Yes
Trustee Jones	Yes
Trustee Carrabotta	Yes
Trustee McKenzie	Yes
Trustee Sweeney	Yes

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Public Participation

Ms. Sharon McLaughlin stated that a few residents and she from the unincorporated area are not receiving the Maine Township MainelyNews.

Supervisor Morask apologized to Ms. McLaughlin and stated that this issue will be addressed and she will make sure that Ms. McLaughlin and her neighbors will receive the MainelyNews as printed four

times a year. She added that by elimination of mailing Mainely News to PO Boxes and businesses the Township will save money.

Agenda Item: Approval of General Assistance Expenditures

Payrolls dated July 28, 2017 and August 11, 2017 and General Assistance checks #50792 through check #50851 in the amount of \$66,719.11.

Trustee Carrabotta Motion to approve.
Trustee Jones Second.

Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Morask Yes
Trustee Jones Yes
Trustee Carrabotta Yes
Trustee McKenzie Yes
Trustee Sweeney Yes

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Approval of Road District Expenditures

Payrolls dated July 28, 2017 and August 11, 2017 and Road District checks #19919 through check #19964 in the amount of \$85,418.47.

Trustee Jones Motion to approve.
Trustee Sweeney Second.

Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Morask Yes
Trustee Jones Yes
Trustee Carrabotta Yes
Trustee McKenzie Yes
Trustee Sweeney Yes

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Approval of General Town Fund Expenditures

Payrolls dated July 28, 2017 and August 11, 2017 and General Town Fund checks #55190 through check #55258 in the amount of \$293,737.71.

Trustee McKenzie Motion to approve.
Trustee Sweeney Second.

Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Morask Yes
Trustee Jones Yes
Trustee Carrabotta Yes
Trustee McKenzie Yes
Trustee Sweeney Yes

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Officials' Reports

Assessor Moylan Krey thanked Marty Cook for developing an extensive package of information on what he has done in the short time the Recovery Connection program was instituted. She added that it is a wonderful program that serves our residents and contributes to our community and the township.

Assessor Moylan Krey stated that she attended the National Night Out and thanked Clerk Gialamas for making it interesting. She pointed out that Maine Township was the first community initiating this event in the area and it has been copied by local communities. It is a wonderful township event where all attendees, Elected Officials, local police department, OEM department, fire department and the Maine Township Departments learn how important it is to know the community and to serve it.

Assessor Moylan Krey reported that her department works on updating files and answers many phone calls especially regarding the Board of Review. She added that the Board of Review will be open approximately in the beginning of September. She emphasized that any unpaid real estate property taxes becomes subject to sale to a third party. The sale dates are dictated by state statutes but this year's sale is the earliest in Cook County history, moving it to just four months after the due date of August 1st.

Highway Commissioner Kazmierczak reported that this summer Highway Department is working on landscaping, tree trimming and summer maintenance of building and sewers.

Highway Commissioner stated that he attended his first Township Highway Commissioner Summer Seminar in Peoria. He attended several interesting sessions such as: Local Government Staff Panel with Questions and Answers, Snow and Ice Maintenance seminar, Insurance Ex Right Away and Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network. He added that Highway Department joined the Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network which it is very helpful in case of disaster and emergency. He stated that the keynote speaker, a downstate legislator had a very informative presentation.

Highway Commissioner Kazmierczak mentioned that he is trying to negate some expenses and did not take per-diem and took a train to the Peoria conference.

Clerk Gialamas extended his thanks and appreciation to the Board, staff, volunteers and everybody who helped with the 2017 National Night Out. It was another successful event and about 500 tickets were given out to the attendees.

Trustee Sweeney stated that she attended the National Night Out and appreciates Clerk Gialamas' effort, coordinating this event and meeting Maine Township residents. Previous to this event she attended the Crime Commission Night where she learned about local issues from the police department.

Trustee McKenzie attended her first National Night Out and she was very impressed with the effort, coordination and the amount of participation from the unincorporated area. She enjoyed the enthusiasm of all the participants, games and raffle prizes. She noted that the residents who participated in the National Night Out event really appreciated all of the gifts, prizes and games. She thanked Clerk Gialamas for coordinating this event and for a very nice night.

Trustee McKenzie stated that she completed her OMA training, received her certificate and has been reading township statutes and learning about township government.

Trustee Carrabotta stated that the National Night Out was a wonderful experience and he thanked all the staff involved in this event. He pointed out the importance of trying to resurrect relationships and respect from children and young adults with the law enforcement and first responders. He added that it was accomplished through out the entire evening from interaction with the games, raffle prizes, the magician and the parade. Trustee Carrabotta thanked Dennis Martin, Niles Maine Library Trustee and Carol Durblik for reaching out to us for the National Night Out.

Trustee Carrabotta stated that today in the morning he enjoyed being at the MaineStreamers Newcomers presentation.

Trustee Jones stated that on Monday, July 31st she attended the Crime Prevention Seminar sponsored by Cook County Commissioner Peter Silvestri, State Representative Michael McAuliffe, Cook County Sheriff's office and Supervisor Laura Morask, Maine Township. It was a successful evening, and all residents appreciated the attention given to crime fighting in our community.

Trustee Jones stated that she participated in the National Night Out event, which was a big success. She thanked Clerk Gialamas for organizing this event and Trustees for participating. She mentioned that several parents reached out to her thanking her for the evening and the opportunity their children were given learn about law enforcement and first responders.

Trustee Jones mentioned a few emotional thank you notes and letters that MaineStay received from children after the summer camp.

Supervisor Morask stated that she represented Maine Township at the Crime Prevention Seminar on August 1st at the Maine Township Town Hall. She was pleased with the turn out and pointed out that the seminar was very valuable. Supervisor Morask thanked Cook County Commissioner Silvestri, State Representative McAuliffe and especially she thanked Cook County Sheriff and Penny Mateck who put this program together. She pointed out that Cook County Sheriff Police fostered a sense of community with our young children. She added that crime dropped in the unincorporated area because of all the intergovernmental departments working together and all of the educational presentations.

Supervisor Morask welcomed all the attendees from MCYAF who came to support Marty Cook's Recovery Connection program.

Supervisor Morask stated that on November 12 to 14th, Township Officials of Illinois (TOI) is holding their annual educational conference in Springfield. She suggested that the newly elected Trustees take advantage of these usually excellent educational seminars. She also pointed out that our Township applied for various awards.

Supervisor Morask thanked Clerk Gialamas for the outstanding job at the National Night Out and congratulated former Clerk Gary K. Warner for being honored at the Park Ridge National Night Out. She added that she enjoyed manning the Supervisor's informational table at the National Night Out along with Doriene Prorak.

Supervisor Morask reported that the newly designed Mainely News is published. The six paged newsletter will be published 4 times a year. The cost is reduced since there are more advertising ads added and the Mainely News is not sent to the P.O. Boxes and businesses anymore. The Maine Township Mainely News is a great reach out to our residents with information about our programs, events and with the great news to be shared.

Supervisor Morask also reported that the new phone system with devices was installed on August 16th. The new website is being redone by John Amburgey from Warehouse Directech and Richard Lyon. The new website will be more transparent and will have more links, more information and pictures. She added that this Board meeting is being videotaped and will be posted on our website. She thanked Mr. Lyon for videotaping the Board meeting.

Trustee Sweeney pointed out that posting the Board meeting video will be great for our residents and we will be able to share more with our community.

Supervisor Morask stated that hopefully everybody noticed our newly paved and striped parking lot. It was done by Fry's Sealcoating and she thanked David Gnutek for all the help.

Supervisor Morask stated that we are in process of instituting a new Paychex log in program. Supervisor Morask and Administrator Berman had a meeting with Paychex representative, who are currently Township's payroll vendor and the contract was signed at a very cost effective price with cost savings to the Township.

Supervisor Morask pointed out that we receive a lot of FOIA requests. Sometimes they are very long and complex. Supervisor Morask explained how much time and work from departments and the FOIA committee is involved in responding to them. She thanked all the departments, FOIA officers and Attorney Dowd for working on these FOIAs and for their timely responses.

Trustee Sweeney requested that FOIA requests be included in the Board packets.

Agenda Item: Attorney's Report

Attorney Dowd stated that he has been reviewing number of agreements on behalf of the Township and consulting and responding to a multiple FOIA requests. He commented that to respond to the requests in a matter of five days can be burdensome to the departments collecting the requested information. He complimented the FOIA committee in their timely responses.

Agenda Item: Administrator's Report

Administrator Berman had nothing to add to her written report.

Agenda Item: Marty Cook/Recovery Connection

Supervisor Morask stated that all the Elected Officials received a special packet of information and data regarding the Maine Township Recovery Connection for viewing. She added that Marty Cook and this program recently won the Community Hero award from the Maine Community Youth Assistance Foundation (MCYAF). Teri Collins, who runs MCYAF and wanted to attend this meeting sent a letter stating that MCYAF is 100% behind Recovery Connection and will do everything to support its programs and education. In her letter she thanked Maine Township Board for sponsoring Recovery Connection and helping the young adults of Maine Township.

Marty Cook thanked the Board for the opportunity to introduce the Maine Township Recovery Connection program. He stated that the opioid epidemic has been declared a national emergency. He gave some statistics saying that \$78.5 billion in 2014 addiction related costs, 134 people die each day in

our country, in 2015, 58 overdoses were reported in Lutheran General Hospital and 13 were fatal. Mr. Cook pointed out that MCAFF is prevention, Lutheran General Hospital and Presence Holy Family is treatment and the Maine Township Recovery Connection is recovery. The Recovery Connection provides community based non-clinical support for emerging young adults with substance use disorder. Recovery begins when a person leaves treatment and that time is often the hardest part. The goal of Recovery Connection is helping young adults in recovery and stay in recovery.

Mr. Cook asked a few of attendees to share their experience with the Recovery Connection.

Britney W., Anthony C. and Nick K. spoke and shared their addictions, recovery and goals. They were pointing out how important and necessary is the Maine Township Recovery Connection program.

Mr. Cook stated that the Maine Township Recovery Connection is a great program. Northwestern University asked them to be an Opioids Roundtable panel and joining their group. Kennedy forum asked them to speak before civic leaders. Recovery Connection representatives monthly speak about this program to civic, faith based organizations and schools. They developed a program to offer support for parents with adolescent or adult child with addiction. Even though Maine Township has been a leader in this field, Recovery Connection needs to be doing more. Mr. Cook pointed out that in order to continue to serve this population and our community they need to bring on a full-time staffer.

Mr. Cook requested that Nick Kanehl, their current part-time Peer Support Advocate be brought on full-time so they can continue to offer supportive programming to help our community. Mr. Kanehl's new responsibilities would include: managing the Dual Solutions relapse prevention group, developing and overseeing Facebook page social media for their clients and convening a monthly leadership council meeting with current clients to plan educational events.

Supervisor Morask thanked all attendees from MCYAF for their courage to participate in the Board meeting and for supporting one of their own.

Agenda Item: Personnel, Marty Cook request to promote Nick Kahehl to full-time Peer Support Advocate with job sharing in Food Pantry of 15 hours at \$15.96/hr – Discussion and Vote

Supervisor Morask ask for a vote moving Nick Kanehl to full time status at \$15.96 per hour plus benefits and job sharing with Food Pantry. Mr. Kanehl's resume is included in the Board packet. In addition to the current Peer Support Advocate position, Mr. Kanehl is taking night classes at his own expense for certified drug and alcohol counseling program. He implemented some great programs for the Recovery Connection and this summer he managed the Dual Solutions project with Chicago Behavioral Hospital and NAMI. This pilot program will be in partnership with our Recovery Connection. Adding another program requires hiring Mr. Kanehl full-time.

Trustee Jones stated that it was her privilege to be on the Maine Township Board when the Recovery Connection program was instituted. She said that if your child has an addiction the whole family deals with it and it doesn't mean anything to you until it means everything to you.

Trustee Jones Motion to approve promoting Nicholas Kahehl to full-time position in the Recovery Connection department and Food Pantry at \$15.96 per hour, with benefits.

Supervisor Morask Second.

Discussion:

Carol Langan spoke how Nick Kahehl started with Maine Township by volunteering in the Food Pantry. She pointed out how helpful he is and that he is a great person.

Trustee McKenzie asked about more information regarding Dual Solutions program such as a start date, if there are any medical experts at meetings and where the participants are coming from.

Mr. Cook explained in details that the Dual Solutions started with the Recovery Connection about

7 weeks ago. This program helps addictions other than drug and alcohol. The participants for Dual Solutions are coming from Recovery Connection's Friday night meetings. There is a physical therapist from Chicago Behavioral Hospital and the participants support each other. He added that many participants are from Maine Township community but they don't turn anybody away. The drug, alcohol and health issues are discussed and it is very important for these young adults to stay connected.

Trustee Sweeney noted that the Township has to follow the State statute in regards to serve only its residents. She also recommended that Mr. Kahehl work part-time but only for Recovery Connection. She was concerned about taxpayers' money. Attorney Dowd opined that the Township Code does not exclude serving non residents.

Trustee Carrabotta questioned if Marty Cook is seeking other funding. He pointed out that the decision hiring Mr. Kahehl will impact the State and that there is big pressure to shoot down townships. He also added that he loves the program but there are many concerns that Trustees have to think of.

Trustee McKenzie stated that she loves this program and she asked numerous questions regarding financial issues and the Recovery Connection budget.

Supervisor Morask explained in detail how the Recovery Connection is funded and where the money will be taken for Nick Kahehl's salary.

Several residents, supporters of Recovery Connection expressed strong support for this program. They shared their connection with Recovery Connection, described the necessity of keeping this program alive and gave great support to hire Mr. Kahehl full-time.

After a lengthy discussion the Elected Officials voted.

Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Morask	Yes
Trustee Jones	Yes
Trustee Carrabotta	Yes
Trustee McKenzie	Yes
Trustee Sweeney	Yes

Motion carried.

Supervisor Morask thanked the audience for participating and sharing their life experiences with everyone.

Agenda Item: Old Business, Approval of closed session minutes from January 24, 2017

Supervisor Morask presented Closed Session minutes from January 24, 2017 and asked if they can be taken out and placed into the regular minutes. She asked Clerk Gialamas to vote since he was a Trustee at that time and the current three Trustees are new on the Township Board.

Trustee Jones	Motion to approve the Closed Session minutes from January 24, 2017 and file them with the regular Board minutes.
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Clerk Gialamas	Second.
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Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Clerk Gialamas	Yes
Supervisor Morask	Yes
Trustee Jones	Yes
Trustee Carrabotta	Abstain
Trustee McKenzie	Abstain
Trustee Sweeney	Abstain

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: New Business, IMRF resolution 2017-7 for Elected Official's eligibility

Supervisor Morask stated that a new State law requires that every two years the Township has to be certified to participate in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) for elected officials. The

hourly standard is 1,000 hours per year or 20 hours a week. Maine Township joined the IMRF in 1986. She stated that additionally, the Township code provides that the salary ordinance requires that 180 days before the beginning of the terms of next Township officials, their salary and compensation is to be fixed. In addition, Maine Township Elected Officials shall receive benefits allowable, membership in and association with the IMRF.

Supervisor Morask read out loud the Resolution 2017-7 and asked for it approval.

Supervisor Morask Motion to approve Resolution 2017-7, with eligibility to qualify for membership in IMRF for Supervisor, Clerk, Assessor and Highway Commissioner.
Trustee Jones Second.

Discussion:

Clerk Gialamas and Highway Commissioner Kazmierczak stated that they are presently not taking or planning in the future to take IMRF. Supervisor Morask stated that also she is not presently taking IMRF and does not plan to.

Supervisor Morask asked the Trustees if they believe that the mentioned Elected Officials work at least 20 hours a week in the Township. She noted that at this time only Assessor Moylan Krey is participating in the IMRF.

Attorney Dowd stated that IMRF benefits are components of compensation. He stated that retirement benefits for the mentioned Elected Officials before their term can't be diminished. The Board has found that those positions are entitled to participate going forward for the four year term in the IMRF. The resolution is only for eligibility.

Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Morask Yes
Trustee Jones Yes
Trustee Carrabotta No
Trustee McKenzie No
Trustee Sweeney No

Motion failed.

Supervisor Morask asked the Trustees their reason for voting no on IMRF matter.

A discussion ensued after Supervisor Morask's request(s) for reasons and asking whether trustees were accusing the 4 subject elected officials of lying and/or committing a felony. Trustee Sweeney said we trustees never made statements accusing the subject elected officials of a felony for untruthfulness in certifying the hours worked. Trustee Carrabotta said not to put words in his mouth regarding accusatory language. Trustee McKenzie stated that none of the trustees had stated or accused any on the subject elected officials (Assessor Moylan Krey, Highway Commissioner Kazmierczak, Clerk Gialamas and Supervisor Morask) as being untruthful in their signed certifications of eligibility presented in our Board member packets. Trustee Sweeney stated that we had no evidence to support the subject elected officials' certifications of hours worked. Refer to Board meeting video for specific discussion.

Supervisor Morask stated that it may open the Township to litigation due to that one of the Elected Official is currently participating in IMRF and any changes can't be made until the 2019 salary ordinance.

Trustee McKenzie asked both Supervisor Morask and Attorney Dowd for specific information regarding the alleged claim or litigation referenced by Supervisor Morask several times without claim being provided by either Morask or Dowd.

Trustee Carrabotta commented that Trustees can object and vote no to any resolution.

Attorney Dowd explained about the conflict between two statutes one regarding not abolishing IMRF during the official's term and second regarding performing 1,000 hours a year by the official.

Agenda Item: New Business, Resolution 2017-8 to re-appoint township attorney and fix compensation of \$400.00 per month retainer at \$195 per hour

Supervisor Morask stated that the revised contract for Attorney Dowd was provided for approval. She asked for approval of re-appointing township attorney and fix compensation of \$400 per month plus retainer at \$195.00 per hour.

Supervisor Morask Motion to approve Resolution 2017-8, a Resolution Reappointing and Fixing the Compensation of the Maine Township Attorney.

Trustee Jones Second.

Motion carried on a roll call vote as follows:

Supervisor Morask Yes

Trustee Jones Yes

Trustee Carrabotta Yes

Trustee McKenzie Yes

Trustee Sweeney Yes

Motion carried.

Agenda Item: Announcing Food Pantry revamp/expansion and introduction of new staff member, Assistant Director Food Coordinator/Funding – No Action Required

Supervisor Morask stated that the Maine Township Emergency Food Pantry hours have been extended under a pilot program to allow greater access to residents five days a week and the Food Pantry has been revamped.

Supervisor Morask stated that she hired Kelly Schaefer under the General Assistance department for 30 hours a week. She added that Food Pantry is now its own community and Carol Langan is the Department Head and will do all the statistics and reports and will be attending the Board meeting without any additional increase in salary. Ms. Schaefer was the best candidate in terms of organizing fundraisers. Her resume was streamlined and she already scheduled meetings with social workers in Maine Township to promote our Food Pantry. Besides that the Food Pantry will be open during the entire week the pilot program may experiment with opening on Saturday once a month depending on need.

Agenda Item: Adjournment

Trustee Carrabotta Motion to adjourn.

Trustee Sweeney Second.

All in favor.

Motion carried on a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 p.m.

Maine Township Clerk